

# NEWSLETTER 6

OCTOBER 1974

Union of Northern Observers

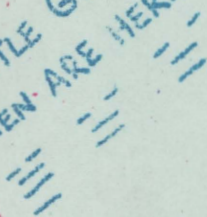
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GETTING THE RIGHT  
IMAGE p1

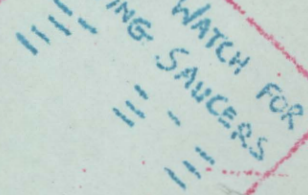
MEN  
FROM MARS!!



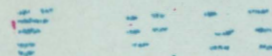
LITTLE GREEN  
MEN ARE HERE



THEY WATCH FOR  
FLYING SAUCERS



THEY'LL KEEP A FULL  
SKYNATCH





## EDITORIAL:: "Getting the right image"

You who read this newsletter probably have different ideas of why you are interested in UFO research but I am sure very few of you consider yourselves examples of the typical Ufologist as portrayed by the media. That being is a most distasteful soul. It is more than unfortunate that so many of us should suffer being branded along with him as a bit nutty, eccentric though mainly harmless. How has this image arisen? Certainly mostly because there are such persons as these around in the UFO world, as there are in every other field. The subject of Ufology is peculiar to begin with, but in its serious aspect it fails to make news. News must be different and so that means if you can talk to the Martians by telepathy every night you are gold to the press - but if you prefer to stick to unbiased scientific approaches then they don't want to know. That is fair enough provided they do not present our telepath as representative of Ufology. Unfortunately they do! The end result is it proves very difficult for serious UFO groups to carry out their work. Constantly they must answer the insults which come so subtly and possibly unintentionally. "So you believe in little green men?" "How many have you seen so far?" Clearly we must do all we can to rectify this situation and every group must put a large emphasis on Public Relations. This is not only to clear your own name, so to speak, but also because nowadays many people have got wise to the attitudes of the press and if they see an unusual phenomena they are far more inclined to keep quiet about it than blab to the newspapers to end up as another nut. This means that UFO groups must really struggle to get their raw material - sighting reports - and those which they do get via the press are now more likely to be hoaxes from publicity seekers. Obviously the ideal would be to be well known to the public as a semi scientific operation. The image has to be both logical and trustworthy for them to take the gamble of reporting to you. There is much groups could do towards this aim and UNO will be going into great detail with joint plans to achieve this. True the ideal is a central office/cum research centre which is a clear indication that we are a proper unit but naturally without one of us winning the football pools that is not immediately in sight. Nevertheless we must make our relationships with the public better. Publicity in the press and on radio and TV is vital but we must be careful. When being interviewed you must always stress the strength of our scientific bases (the computer files, the attempts to evaluate and the absolute unbiased approach we must have). Be wary of being led into saying we believe this or that. There is always a constant battle to make you appear more interesting for publication and this means unfortunately less credible. Don't be afraid to refuse a story if you sense the wrong attitude. MAPIT has done this already, being certain that no publicity is better than bad publicity. But this is not enough. Relationships must be improved with police, airports and all other bodies likely to receive reports from the public. They too must have confidence in your group to let you co-operate. We must be prepared to meet these bodies and give lectures to them and other sections of the community. If you have faith in your publication that too must find its way around the area by display in libraries etc. Posters are another useful and cheap gimmick - AND THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE. We really need a decent joint publication. Well presented, soberly written and containing FACTS. That must be our aim for the near future. It will be hard and take time to change the image - it will mean certainly not getting your picture printed or name mentioned in the popular press as often as they might. BUT IF YOU ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THAT THEN WE MAY AS WELL PART COMPANY NOW. UNO doesn't need you - and certainly Ufology doesn't. You may be anonymous but that doesn't make you unimportant.



NEWS!! NEWS!!!!

Perhaps UNO groups will be suprised to receive this publication since it was probably felt that Uno was dying a slow death. It is true that as a group we have had problems, but then we never have intended to be a group. We are five groups CO-OPERATING. That is still as true as ever. So it is felt necessary to keep this newsletter going. We are all thinkinh carefully of the future and what it is hoped to do is plan this out in great detail before taking any further steps. UNO may then emerge under a new name and with renewed ideas - but meanwhile we will continue to show other Ufologists in Britain and the world that we are working together and that we are producing better results than we were alone. The tape scehemâ is underway and is a means of bringing the views of the groups together. This newsletter will continue as a further forum.

#### LOCAL GROUP NEWS::

British Youth UFO: It would seem that BYUWIC are now going to play their full part in our joint operations which is very welcome news. They are on the tape circuit and have been telling of the many contacts, world wide, they now have. They seem well on the way to being the biggest junior UFO organisation in the world. Alan Walsh gave a talk at the Star Trek Convention in September - perhaps he will write a report for us on that.

MAPIT: Are of course supervising the filing systems of the central records and have been extremely busy recently transferring almost 100 new reports onto these. The Computer scheme is now fully operational and has an initial capacity of 1000 reports (which at present rate will soon be reached). They have been in the thick of publicity also with a major article in the Manchester Evening News due soon. For more information see SKYWATCH.

NAPRA: Are well advanced in their plans for a UFO detector at around £5. They are on the lookout for electronic help to manufacture them so that we may soon commence the setting up of our detector network.

Scunthorpe UFO: Have contributed a large batch of reports to our files which are most interesting and are being feverishly transferred. We are hoping shortly to operate an Eastern Tape circuit to add to the one functioning already. Scunthorpe have agreed to co-operate on this and we have invited groups from Yorkshire, Nottingham and Derby to join in.

Wirral UFO Society: Have a meeting arranged for October 31 (time from Wirral) at Bebbington Grammar School. There will be a talk on UFOs in New Zealand. It is hoped that in November a further lecture will be arranged. Wirral seem to be the only group locally doing this sort of thing perhaps others will consider it. Certainly there are people spread around the groups with numerous ideas for lectures. Lets use them.

It would seem from reports that West Pennine Research Group have disbanded. This is sad news, though hardly suprising. Nevertheless we have some contact remaining with their investigation region so things are not too bad. Also we may soon be printing information on a body from North Lancashire (which is somewhere we have long needed covering). More news soon.

REMEMBER TO KEEP NEWS OF YOUR GROUPS ACTIVITIES COMING IN. OTHERWISE HOW CAN WE PUBLICISE IT FOR YOU?

STOP PRESS:: Applications are underway for a joint production on the BBC TV Programme 'Open Door'. Nothing certain yet - but lets have any ideas.



## ANALYSIS OF THE OPINION POLL:

After the recent experiences of the election poll forecasts I suppose we should be very wary of trusting anything which purports to be an opinion survey - but if you remember in August such a form was included with your copy of UNO journal. As comments indicate many were unclear what the intention was, and not a large number returned them. In fact I cannot tell you the full reasoning behind them since they were prepared by Dave Morley, who as you know is not at present available. But there are one or two things which can usefully come out of looking at the results. One of the most interesting questions was Where do UFOs come from? The answers were not surprising, though a bit saddening. 75% said UFOs were probably spacecraft. (25% were absolutely certain of it!) This in itself is not worrying, indeed all but a couple of people said that ETH was a very likely source. What is worrying is that only 20% said we should be open minded. One person summed up what I believe the correct view by saying. UFOs could be many things BUT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHICH. Other theories which found support were Time Travel (30%) Other Universe/Dimension (15%) and from Earth (5%). Perhaps a fuller analysis of the other questions will be done later, though it must be pointed out that the survey is not as claimed a PUBLIC OPINION one - since only Ufologists were circulated. That will bias it a little bit, won't it? Incidentally it was useful to ask what you wanted out of a magazine and your views are to be acted on. Virtually unanimous was more detail and follow up on investigations. Also a lot wanted more local group news and information on lectures. This is up to local groups to supply the news and summarise any lectures they hold for us. Unfortunately at present photos are not possible - but we have the next best thing - drawings!

## THE MEN IN BLACK : (Mark Williamson)

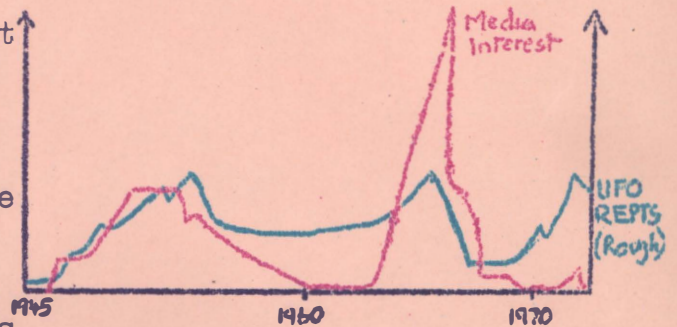
Men in black have been operating since at least 1953. They are so called because they dress in black suits, shoes and hats. They have also been known to drive black cars with tinted windows. Their job is to stop Ufologists who are nearing a solution to the UFO mystery. They have done this in several ways, simply by telling Ufologists to stop (often by strange phone calls) or by telling him information which frightens him into not completing his work. They have even been suspected of killing or kidnapping Ufologists. What are they and who do they work for? One possibility is that they are agents for beings of another planet. Another theory is that they are American secret agents trying to keep covered the fact that UFOs are secret weapons. This cannot really be so since they have been reported from Germany, Sweden and even Merseyside! Always they speak the local language. One of the first cases comes from Connecticut USA in 1953 when an Albert Bender formed an International UFO service. He had a theory about UFOs which he posted to another Ufologist. Three MIBs called (they often work in threes) and handed him the letter back! They told him out of all the researchers he was one of the few who had found a meaningful answer. They told him more details which made him so ill he didn't eat for three days. He said after, 'They were very rough with me. Two did all the talking and one just stared at me.' They told him, apparently, that when the truth was known great changes would come over the world. He did not reveal the secret of the UFOs of course. Many more cases are known and others probably have never been reported. Maybe the solution will be found soon much to the relief of Ufologists.

(our thanks to Mark, active in Wirral UFO, for this article. Certainly UNO does not fully accept the reality of MIBs - but we don't discount them. Still thanks for a well put together analysis of the supposed facts. ED)



## IS THE WAVE PHENOMENA REAL?::

Is there any real evidence for the existence of waves in UFO sighting reports? This is not such a superficial question as it seems because if it can be proven as a definite factor it will throw vital light on the nature of UFOs. It may be true that its reality would lend itself more easily to more extraordinary theories than are commonly generated because if UFOs are spacecraft from another world why should they travel more at certain times? I will leave aside the many possible arguments why this could be so and concentrate on the question posed in the title. Now it is not disputed that a wave pattern can be shown in UFO REPORTS but that is a different matter to the UFO phenomena. True a real phenomena is present but it is enmeshed in the general morass of misinterpretations and psychological factors. The UFO report draws from all these areas and so all we can show is that the wave is characteristic of one or more of them. There seems little reason to assume misinterpretations will follow a time pattern. Of course isolated instances (such as the burn up of a bright satellite) give rise to isolated reports but these do not show on statistical analyses. For psychological factors the situation is different. In the main they depend on interest in UFOs. When it is high people are more apt to look in the sky and are hoping to see something. Such a state of mind easily clouds even the best observer and a weather balloon more readily becomes a UFO. Of course the media play their part. They report things more often when one or two reports come in and this generates more reports from those wanting to get their name printed. The graph relates Media interest to UFO reports and shows a significant relationship. Of course we expect this BUT is the media interest reflecting the spate of sightings or are they (the wave) caused by the media interest? In other words are reports of the real phenomena sporadic and pretty constant? It will be seen that the graph breaks down at the significant date of 1970. The New York Times was used as the media gauge since it is a symbol of traditional journalism but local waves would be better illustrated in local publications. Nevertheless the following points are valid.



1) There is a tremendous difference in the number of items on UFOs in 1955 (15) and 1966 (39) yet nothing like a proportional increase in reports.  
 2) The effects of the 1969 Condon Report show clearly. Virtually all 13 of the 1969 items are about Condon. Since then there are less than half a dozen in 4½ years! Yet UFO reports have not declined and the relationship, though present, with the 1973 wave is hardly noticeable.

So what do we conclude? Certainly there is evidence that the media does play a significant role in the generation of waves or flaps (though to be fair one country's media cannot really be related to world wide reports). Nevertheless, particularly considering the post Condon era, it does not dispell the possibility that the wave is characteristic of the UFO phenomena.

## RESEARCH NOTES::

The main research scheme underway is the joint production of a pre 1974 catalogue of UFO sightings in the UNO area. These will be brief notes on all sightings plus in depth reports on selected cases of importance. It will be concluded with summaries, statistics and graphs. All groups are asked to co-operate with their own investigations and with notes on any reports they find in books, magazines and local newspaper files. Other programmes underway are of course the detector network, some research into ley line relationships, temporal distribution of sightings and whether they differ in populated and unpopulated regions and an examination of the sociology of witnesses. If you have any ideas or help for these pass it on and of course let us know of any other schemes initiated so we may ask for assistance. Ideas for more joint programmes will be discussed on tape.



## INVESTIGATION SECTION: :

Many people have commented that this section is really what the magazine should be about. Whilst recognising the need to place more emphasis on full sighting reports it must also be realised that investigations can take time and the publication of the catalogues will ensure full reports of our sightings will go on record.

APRIL 25 1972 20-30 GRANTHAM

Several witnesses in the area watched the unusual behaviour of a UFO for fifteen minutes. It was described as a yellow sphere, the size of a foot ball, which zig zagged across the sky. At times it would appear to hover and it was lost from sight for a time. It was found again close to some Provost Jet aircraft. Finally it shot off to the north.

(This is one of the many interesting reports from a large batch supplied by Scunthorpe Ufo Society. It is quoted partly because of its similarity to the report below. The aircraft are a mystery since all local air bases denied they were there. One witness has had flying experience however and should therefore be reliable. Fuller details on file number 72D 153)

APRIL 4 1974 06-00 CHORLTON, Manchester

This report is of a yellow sphere also which was observed by five security officers on their way to work. They were travelling along a quiet road in a minibus when the object crossed the sky in front. All statements agreed in what they saw.

(This report was investigated by MAPIT but no conclusion was reached. We were able to rule out meteor and atmospheric phenomena with some certainty and no aircraft were in the vicinity within one hour of the time. In fact the guards were working at Ringway airport and were very familiar with types of aircraft. Fuller details on file number 74D 027)

JUNE 22 1974 24-00 approx BEBBINGTON, Wirral

This report has already been recorded in the Wirral newsletter 'Skylink' but is worth commenting on now full statements are on file. It took place during a Skywatch on the school field arranged by Wirral UFO Society. Four observers plotted the actions of a black sphere for almost half an hour. It appeared to change into a cigar shape then back to a sphere before vanishing. It was observed through binoculars.

(There are inconsistencies in the various statements and the exact time is uncertain but it is worth pointing out that in multiple witness sightings it is often better to find such minor discrepancies since it would be expected with the obvious excitement and although obviously not relevant in this case complete agreement can give suspicions of either collusion or induced mass hypnosis. Apparently a temperature inversion was present but it was not possible to have caused this report. The change in shape does seem likely to be due to change in angle of observation and it seems possible owing to the virtual stability of the object that a balloon could have caused it. Nothing has been found so far, however. It is a pity we have no photographs. Full report on file number 74F C73-C82

NEXT MONTH: First in series about UNO groups, their members and ideas.  
Plus anything which you would like to contribute . . .

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH: UFO News - past, present & future of UFO conventions  
Cosmology Newslink - many UFO articles this month  
including Does BUFORA really exist?  
Skywatch - black holes & UFOs, NW news and reports  
Fate & Fortune - Charles Bowen (yes he's still  
alive!) gives a potted summary of Ufology.